

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-4, and added new claims 5 and 6.

The Examiner's rejection of Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §112 (2nd ¶) is now believed to be moot.

The Examiner's rejection of Claims 3 and 4 (now cancelled) under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,506,536 (Anbe) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,740,686 (Martinez et al.) has been considered by the Applicants in the context of the new claims 5 and 6. The arguments advanced by the Examiner in support of this rejection are set forth in item No. 5 on pages 2-3 of the Official Action, and not herein repeated. In the event the Examiner were to apply the same ground of rejection to said new claims, Applicants would (and hereby do) traverse the Section 103(a) rejection for the reasons stated below.

While Anbe discloses setting a rolling velocity of a rolling stand indirectly as a function of the actual temperature of the metal strip (see col. 11 lines 63 to col. 13, line 27), Anbe does not disclose using the metal strip's temperature a set value for control. The object of Anbe's invention is to achieve a desired strip thickness (and eventually width) while controlling speed and minimizing interstand tension. However, Anbe does not provide one skilled in the art with any motivation to control the strip temperature or to use set values for the temperature.

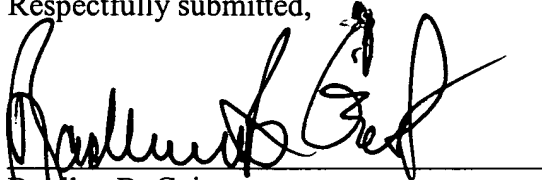
According to Anbe only the actual value of a metal strip's temperature is used as a mere input value for calculations. Neither Anbe nor Martinez et al. disclose the features of the present invention that require the rolling velocity of a stand to be set utilizing an additional value (Δv_L) for temperature control of the metal strip, and wherein that additional value is used to set the

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temperature of the metal strip, and wherein that additional value is used to set the temperature of the metal strip to a desired temperature.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending new claims which Applicants believe patentably distinguish over the Anbe and Martinez et al. references.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bradley B. Geist', written over a horizontal line.

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